tourism potential of the region. Tezpur-Sejuse (Pukui)—Bhalukpung-TIPI-Tezpur circuit was opened vide Ministry of Home Affairs circular dated 18-1-1993.

Misuse of aircrafts of Ministries and Department

285 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different Ministries and Departments P.S.Es under them in Government have aircrafts at their disposal for various official purposes, if so, what are the particulars thereof in each case;

(b) whether there is any monitoring arrangement to see that these aircrafts are used strictly and only for the official purpose and not for any other purpose, if so, what are the details in this regard and to what extent these are being followed;

(c) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a report that appeared in the Indian Express, Bombay of 2.9.1994 about unauthorised persons on an aircrafts which crashed resulting in the death of all the occupants and whether this aircraft was given by UNDP / the Environment and Forests Ministry for fire fighting operations, if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(d) whether Government's attention have also been drawn to the fact that in a similar situation in the United States, officials of the White House were serverely reprimanded for using a White House aircrafts for non-official purpose and made to reimburse the full cost to Government; and

(e) if so, what is Government's attitude in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Sabha.

Incidents of VVIP Aircrafts developing Snags

286. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be place during 1993 and 1994:

(a) the number of incidents of VVIP Aircrafts developing snags has taken place during 1993 and 1994;

(b) whether such incidents are on the increase;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to investigate the matter; and

(e) the facts revealed by such investigations incidents-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There were two instances of snags reported on VVIP charter operations by Air India during the year 1994. There was no such incident in 1993.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The details are as follows:—

(i) Air India B-747 aircraft VT-EGC while operating extra section flight AI-1 from Washington to Paris on 20-5-94 with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on board, had developed snags due to shattering of cockpit wind shield. The aircraft made a safe lading at Paris. Investigation by a Committee of Inquiry into the incident revealed that shattering of outer pane of aircraft L 1 window was due to electric arcing between wind shield layers which occurred due to moisture ingress through cracks in the wind shield's weather seal.

(ii) Air India B-747 aircraft VT-EFU operating VVIP flight from Delhi to Beijing on 21.10.94 with Hon'ble Vice